

REMARKS


The Examiner has asserted a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring restriction of the application to one of the two alleged groups of claims, namely claims 1-9 (Group I), and claims 10-20 (Group II).

Applicants hereby elect Group I, consisting of claims 1-9 for prosecution in this application. Applicants have elected Group I in order to expedite prosecution of this application. This election is made without waiver, estoppel, or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to subject matter of the canceled claims.

The Examiner also asserted a Species Election Requirement, stating that patentably distinct inventions are illustrated in Figures 1 and 7. Applicants hereby elect the species illustrated in Figure 1.

The foregoing amendment conforms this application to the Examiner's Restriction and Species Election Requirement dated January 23, 2001. The undersigned would welcome a telephone call at the telephone number listed below if such would advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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